

Dear Paul,

11/26/76

There is nothing your friend says Burkley told him that is not consistent with other evidence.

The key thing is the day.

The day after this assassination.

This is the day before Oswald was killed. Until it was known there would be no trial they autopsy could not be phoned. That's Burkley told your friend no more than the truth he expected to come out very soon.

I can only wonder how many others know such facts that were suppressed.

If you remember the FBI report I use in Post Mortem it reports surgery on the head before the corpse was in Bethesda. If Burkley told your friend eight stitches then there was more damage than officially reported and if it was toward the rear of the front hairline and about 2 1/2-3 inches to the right of the midline of the skull, I can only wonder why with so vast a hunk still missing. Unless the X-rays are phoney they show no proof of another hole there.

I'd be careful. If I were he I'd be saying nothing for public use now. But if he can add any details that could be helpful. Anything Burkley told me, anything he heard. He knows the official story is false, of course. And I'm sure that after the autopsy was altered they were not talking about it.

If I could ever get out there I'd like very much to talk to him.

There was no facial damage. That is true.

I wonder if your friend means that after he left Bethesda hospital Burkley thought the damage to the head had all been sutured? A piece was not even found until the next day. I'd like to understand this better. There was, supposedly, a large flaw in the head.

How do you think he'd take it if you told him the truth about what Burkley did?

Thanks on Irving Wallace. But from what he and his son wrote on this subject unless he has a troubled conscience - or none - I think the chances are slight.

If Wexler can be of any help that would be fine. Jim is to have picked up 500 more pages today. As I wrote, I'm not in an emergency situation unless and until we get to deposing FBI agents in the spectro case. He is staying much too busy for one man. I'll give him your best wishes, though.

You'll find that with the House committee it really is as I've said, perhaps worse. For some time your friend would do well to stay away from them and talk to nobody who might tell them anything. I won't. I now have nothing to do with them. If and when they straighten out there will still be too many bad people. After Downing retires it remains a fact that on this Gonzalez is a nut.

The Webermania about Bud also is nuts. If his accusation were factual his "facts" are not. Obviously this is something about which there is no certainty. He and I rarely talk, have not gotten along for many years, but I still do not believe it.

Best,